

Application No.: 10/786,576
Filing Date: February 24, 2004

REMARKS

By this paper, Applicant has amended Claim 1, 2, 24, 26, 33, and 35. Hence, Claims 1-48 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Interview on November 9, 2010

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Disler Paul for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representatives in the telephonic interview conducted on November 9, 2010. Applicant believes that considerable progress toward allowance of the claims was made during the interview.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cowan (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2003/0029975), Simon (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2001/0027560 A1), and Schlatmann (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,942). Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-48 are allowable over the prior art of record as discussed below.

Independent Claims

Each of independent Claims 1, 2, 24, 26, 33, and 35 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein there are more coupling points than audio-visual modules," or a similar feature thereto. As discussed during the interview of November 9, 2010, and agreed upon by Examiner Disler Paul, none of the cited art teaches or suggests all of the limitations of each of amended Claims 1, 2, 24, 26, 33, and 35. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that each of Claims 1, 2, 24, 26, 33, and 35 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Dependent Claims

Claims 3-23, 25, 27-32, 34, and 36-48 each depend from one of independent Claims 1, 2, 24, 26, 33, or 35, and further define additional features. In view of the patentability of their base claim, and in further view of the additional features, Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims 3-23, 25, 27-32, 34, and 36-48 are patentable over the applied prior art.

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No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

Any remarks in support of patentability of one claim should not be imputed to any other claim, even if similar terminology is used. Additionally, any remarks referring to only a portion of a claim should not be understood to base patentability on solely that portion; rather, patentability must rest on each claim taken as a whole. Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner's rejections and each of the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art discloses or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein.

Applicant has not presented arguments concerning whether the applied references can be properly combined in view of the clearly missing elements noted above, and Applicant reserves the right to later contest whether a proper reason exists to combine these references and to submit evidence relating to secondary considerations supporting the non-obviousness of the apparatuses/methods recited by the pending claims.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped

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issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 11/12/10

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